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Attorneys for Plaintiffs,
ESTATE OF ALICIA UPTON, by and through successor in interest, Nichole
Thompson and Matthew Upton; NICHOLE THOMPSON, individually; MATTHEW
UPTON, individually

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ESTATE OF ALICIA UPTON, by and
through successor in interest, Nichole
Thompson and Matthew Upton;
NICHOLE THOMPSON, individually;
MATTHEW UPTON, individually,

Plaintiffs,

v.

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, a public
entity; RIVERSIDE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT;
SHERIFF CHAD BIANCO, in his
individual and official capacities;
EDWARD DELGADO; JAMES
KRACHMER; VICTORIA
VARISCO-FLORES; PATRICIA
COTA PERALTA; CYNTHIA
KOEPNICK; DESIREE ALLISON;
ADAM ALVAREZ; TAYLOR
CHAPMAN; MATTHEW BOLLE;
RUSSELL ALM; YESENIA
GALAPIR; BONIFACE DY;
ARTURO TRUJILLO; KAREN
MARSHALLECK and DOES 1
through 10, individually, jointly and
severally,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 5:23-cv-02655-JGB(JCx)
*[Assigned to the Hon. Jesus G. Bernal,
District Judge; Referred to the Hon.
Jacqueline Chooljian, Magistrate Judge]*

**AMENDED STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

1 **1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

2 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
3 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
4 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be
5 warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter
6 the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order
7 does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and
8 that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited
9 information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable
10 legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below,
11 that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to a file confidential
12 information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be
13 followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from
14 the court to file material under seal.

14 **B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

15 Plaintiffs and the individual Defendants may produce certain documents in this
16 case that contain personal medical, employment or financial information. Such
17 information may implicate the privacy interests of the party and are properly
18 protected through a Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) protective order. *Seattle Times Co. v.*
19 *Rhinehart*, 467 U.S. 20, 35 n.21 (1984) (“Rule 26(c) includes among its express
20 purposes the protection of a ‘party or person from annoyance, embarrassment,
21 oppression or undue burden or expense.’ Although the Rule contains no specific
22 reference to privacy or to other rights or interests that may be implicated, such matters
23 are implicit in the broad purpose and language of the Rule.”); *Soto v. City of Concord*,
24 162 F.R.D. 603, 617 (N.D. Cal. 1995) (a party’s privacy rights are to be protected
25 through a “carefully crafted protective order.”).

26 **2. DEFINITIONS**

27 2.1 Action: This pending federal lawsuit, Estate of Alicia Upton v. County
28 of Riverside, et al. Case Number 5:23-cv-02655-JGB(JCx).

1 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation
2 of information or items under this Order.

3 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
4 how it is generated, stored, or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
5 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the
6 Good Cause Statement.

7 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
8 their support staff).

9 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
10 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
11 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

12 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
13 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
14 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or
15 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

16 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
17 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
18 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

19 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
20 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
21 counsel.

22 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
23 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

24 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party
25 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have
26 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which
27 has appeared on behalf of that party, including support staff.
28

2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors, employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material in this Action.

2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing Party.

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

4. DURATION

Once a case proceeds to trial, all of the information that was designated as confidential or maintained pursuant to this protective order becomes public and will be presumptively available to all members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance of the trial. See Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir. 2006) (distinguishing “good cause”

1 showing for sealing documents produced in discovery from “compelling reasons”
2 standard when merits-related documents are part of court record). Accordingly, the
3 terms of this protective order do not extend beyond the commencement of the trial.

4 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

5 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

6 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under
7 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that
8 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for
9 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
10 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items,
11 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably
12 within the ambit of this Order.

13 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
14 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
15 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
16 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating
17 Party to sanctions.

18 If it comes to a Designating Party’s attention that information or items that it
19 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
20 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

21 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in
22 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of Section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
23 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
24 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
25 produced.

26 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

27 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
28 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend

1 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that
2 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
3 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
4 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

5 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for
6 inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has
7 indicated which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection
8 and before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
9 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the documents
10 it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents,
11 or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing
12 the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL
13 legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of
14 the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
15 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the
16 margins). Markings added to documents pursuant to this paragraph shall not obscure
17 the content or text of the documents produced.

18 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify
19 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition
20 all protected testimony. The court reporter must affix to each such transcript page
21 containing Protected Material the “CONFIDENTIAL legend”, as instructed by the
22 Designating Party.

23 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and
24 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on
25 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the
26 legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants
27 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected
28 portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the

Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's Scheduling Order.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party Shall initiate the dispute resolution process under Civil Local Rule 37-1 et seq.

6.3 Burden of Persuasion
The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties), may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of Section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

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1 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
2 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
3 authorized under this Order.

4 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
5 otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
6 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
7 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

8 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as
9 well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably
10 necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

11 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of
12 the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

13 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
14 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
15 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

16 (d) the Court and its personnel;

17 (e) court reporters and their staff;

18 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional
19 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
20 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

21 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
22 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

23 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the
24 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
25 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit 1 hereto; and (2) they will
26 not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
27 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
28 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the Court. Pages of transcribed
deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be

1 separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as
2 permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

3 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
4 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

5 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**
6 **PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION**

7 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
8 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
9 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

10 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification
11 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

12 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
13 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena
14 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of
15 this Stipulated Protective Order; and

16 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
17 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

18 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
19 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this
20 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the
21 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
22 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
23 protection in that court of its confidential material, and nothing in these provisions
24 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
25 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

26 **9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE**
27 **PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

28 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information

1 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
2 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
3 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

4 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
5 produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
6 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's
7 confidential information, then the Party shall:

8 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
9 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement
10 with a Non-Party;

11 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
12 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
13 specific description of the information requested; and

14 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-
15 Party, if requested.

16 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this Court within
17 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
18 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery
19 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall
20 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
21 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the Court.
22 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense
23 of seeking protection in this Court of its Protected Material.

24 **10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

25 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
26 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
27 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in
28 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts
to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or

persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to the Court.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 Right to Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order, no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party’s request to file Protected Material under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

1 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

2 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
3 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
4 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in
5 this subdivision, “all Protected Material” includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
6 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
7 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving
8 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
9 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
10 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or
11 destroyed; and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,
12 abstracts, compilations, summaries, or any other format reproducing or capturing any
13 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
14 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
15 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
16 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
17 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
18 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
19 Section 4 (DURATION).

20 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
21 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
22 sanctions.

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1 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

2
3 Dated: August 26, 2025

GASTÉLUM LAW, APC

4 By: /s/ Denisse O. Gastélum

5 Denisse O. Gastélum, Esq.

6 Selene Estrada-Villela, Esq.

7 Attorneys for Plaintiffs,

8 ESTATE OF ALICIA UPTON, by and through

9 successor in interest, Nichole Thompson and

10 Matthew Upton; NICHOLE THOMPSON,

11 individually; MATTHEW UPTON, individually

12
13 Dated: August 26, 2025

LAW OFFICES OF CHRISTIAN CONTRERAS

14 A Professional Law Corporation

15 By: /s/ Christian Contreras

16 Christian Contreras, Esq.

17 Attorneys for Plaintiffs,

18 ESTATE OF ALICIA UPTON, by and through

19 successor in interest, Nichole Thompson and

20 Matthew Upton; NICHOLE THOMPSON,

21 individually; MATTHEW UPTON, individually

22
23 Dated: August 26, 2025

BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORESENSEN, LLP

24 A Professional Law Corporation

25 By: /s/ Caylin W. Jones

26 Nathan A. Oyster

27 Caylin W. Jones

28 Attorneys for Defendants,

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, SHERIFF CHAD

BIANCO, EDWARD DELGADO, JAMES

KRACHMER AND VICTORIA VARISCO-

FLORES

1 Dated: September 15, 2025

MANNING & KASS
ELLROD, RAMIREZ, TRESTER
LLP

2
3 By: /s/ Kayleigh Andersen
4 Eugene P. Ramirez
5 Kayleigh Andersen
6 Khouloud Pearson
Attorneys for Defendant, CYNTHIA
KOEPNICK

7
8
9 Dated: September 15, 2025

DEAN GAZZO ROISTACHER LLP

10
11 By: /s/ Kimberly Sullivan
12 Mitchell D. Dean
13 Kimberly Sullivan
Attorneys for Defendant, PATRICIA
COTA PERALTA

14
15
16 Dated: September 15, 2025

SMITH LAW OFFICES, LLP

17
18 By: /s/ Karen L. Capasso
19 Karen L. Capasso
Doug Smith
Attorneys for Defendant, KAREN
MARSHALLECK

20
21
22
23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24
25 DATED: September 15, 2025

26 /s/
27 Honorable Jacqueline Chooljian
28 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Amended Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on September 15, 2025 in the case of *Estate of Alicia Upton, et al. v. County of Riverside, et al.*; Case No. 5:23-cv-02655-JGB(JCx). I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Amended Stipulated Protective Order, and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Amended Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Amended Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of _____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Amended Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____